Editorial/Comments/Etc.

Citizens "arrested" to help fight Cancer

By Barbara Rollins-Reed

A strange thing happened to me while I was covering the meeting of the Senior Citizens Organization Thursday night.

I was sitting in the high school lecture room, taking down notes, concentrating hard, as I usually do, on what was going on. Toward the end of the meeting the procedings were interrupted by two hulking, intimidating, determined Poquoson Police Officers, Chris Claud and Lou Hooks. Officer Claud walked up to where I was sitting and said, of all things, "Ms. Reed, I have a warrant for your arrest!"

I said, rather loudly I must admit, "What?" Someone else said, "What's going on?" Another said, "They look serious."

Serious they were, for they then, to the astonishment of the meeting attendees, handcuffed me, took me by the arms and escorted me outside to a waiting patrol car.

Arrested for cancer

The warrant for my arrest was issued in conjunction with the Cancer Control Drive being held at Farm Fresh May 12.

After being picked up at the high school, I was taken to police headquarters for a mug shot. From there I was taken, in the patrol car, with red lights flashing I might add, to the "jail" at Farm Fresh. There I was to serve my time until I could raise my bail which I posted at $50.

Many people have been arrested to serve their time behind jail for cancer, including Mayor Howard G. Forrest, City Attorney Benjamin Hahn, Assistant Superintendent Fletcher Gray, Elementary School Principal Mary Kay Weston, and Farm Fresh Manager Bob Howard, to name but a few. There will be more.

All participants will post their bail money on May 12, during the Cancer Control fund-raising activities.

Cancer serious business

I managed to raise my bail Thursday night, and a little bit more, thanks to my wonderful family and friends. Some of the senior citizens even came by after their meeting was over to help me out.

We had a lot of fun, but we all know that cancer, its control, and research into its cure, is no laughing matter.

Cancer, along with heart attacks, is the #1 killer of American's today. It is a ruthless killer. It knows no boundaries, for it indeed strikes anyone, young, old, rich, poor, men, women, black, white, blue collar or white, rural farmer or city dweller. It shows no prejudice to age, social, racial, or economic status.

What is cancer?

According to "Cancer Facts & Figures," published by the American Cancer Society, normally, the cells that make up the body reproduce themselves in an orderly manner so that worn-out tissues are replaced, injuries are repaired, and growth of the body proceeds.

Occasionally, certain cells undergo an abnormal change and begin a process of uncontrolled growth and spread: one cell divides into two, those redivide into four, and so on. These cells may grow into masses of tissue called tumors -- some benign and others malignant (cancerous).

The danger of cancer is that it invades and destroys normal tissue. At the beginning, cancer cells usually remain at their original site, and the cancer is said to be localized. Later, some cancer cells may invade neighboring organs or tissue. This occurs either by direct extension of growth or by becoming detached and carried through the lymph or blood systems to other parts of the body. This is called metastasis of a cancer.

This spread may be regional, confined to one region of the body, when cells are trapped by lymph nodes. If left untreated, however, the cancer is likely to spread throughout the body. That condition is known as advanced cancer, and usually results in death.

Because with each stage a case of cancer becomes progressively more serious, it is important to detect cancer as early as possible. An aid to early detection is knowing the Seven Warning Signals.

Seven warning signals

Change in bowel or bladder habits.

A sore that does not heal.

Unusual bleeding or discharge.

Thickening or lump in breast or elsewhere.

Indigestion or difficulty in swallowing.

Obvious change in wart or mole.

Nagging cough or hoarsness.

If you have a warning signal, see your doctor!

Cancer society helps

An important goal of the American Cancer Society's (ACS) fight against cancer is to ease the impact of cancer on people. The society offers the following services without charge:

Information and counseling concerning ACS services, community health services and resources that may help the patient;

Loans of sickroom supplies and special comfort items for the homebound patient, such as hospital beds and wheelchairs;

Surgical dressings prepared by volunteers;

Transportation to and from a doctor's office, clinic or hospital for diagnosis and treatment.

There are also several rehabilitation programs which assist tens of thousands of cancer patients resume normal lives, careers and places in their communities. As examples:

The International Association of Laryngectomees, supported by the ACS, offers speech training and moral support to those who have lost their voices to cancer;

Reach to Recovery teaches special exercises and provides counseling to aid mastectomy patients back to normal lives;

The Ostomy rehabilitation program gives psychological support and encourages the training of enterostomal therapists who work with patients in adjusting bodily functions to daily living;

Make Today Count, a mutual support organization of local chapters, brings together those persons affected by serious illness or chronic conditions so they may help each other learn to live life in a positive, meaningful manner.

Everyone needs to help

We cannot urge strongly enough, that everyone needs to help.

Make it a point to stop by Farm Fresh May 12 and contribute as much as you can to help fight against this destroyer of human life.

No one is totally safe from the possibility of being struck down by its devastating capabilities. Even as you read this, several of our Poquoson neighbors are waging battle against its harmful effects.

Maybe your contribution will be the one that makes it possible for those involved in research to finally discover the breakthrough which could help eliminate the word "cancer" from our language.

Cancer Control Fund Drive
Farm Fresh Parking Lot

Schedule Of Events

May 12

Beginning at 9 a.m. and continuing throughout the day: X-15 Radio, broadcasting live, twelve Arts and Crafts exhibits, moon walk, games for kids: lollipop tree, water tub, balloon dart board, fishing pond and cork throw, helium balloons for sale, clowns, Raggedy Anne, and Mickey Mouse, hot dogs, drinks, homemade clam chowder, and popcorn on sale.

12 noon to 1 p.m.: Special Delivery Band

1:30 to 3 p.m.: Poquoson Jazz Band

3:30 to 4:30 p.m.: Leanna's Dance Studio: 30 girl-show

6 p.m.: Auction

6:30 p.m.: Virginia Cloggers

7 to 8 p.m.: Caravan East Dancers

8:00 p.m. - Until (?): "Just A Cut Above" Band and Street Dancing

Also on May 12 & 13 at Met Park, 7:30 p.m., many prizes will be given away during baseball games. Tickets for the games and the raffle are on sale at Farm Fresh.

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